

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

July 21, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council held a virtual General Meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Campuzano with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in memory of (1) Norman Marty Council, former Council member and (2) Steven Ammon, father of police officer Mike Ammon.

The Mayor noted that Marty Council had served as his Vice President on Borough Council during the 90's and considered him "a caring, smart and true friend who could always be counted to have your back". Additionally, Mr. Council laid the foundation for economic development in Lansdowne and created the Council of Governments (COG), an organization that provided a great deal of help for the borough.

PUBLIC HEARING: Group Living Arrangements

President Hover indicated there was a quorum present and Ms. English was attending via Zoom, as allowed by the requirements for telephonic communications. He then opened the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2021-02 re: group living arrangements. There was no public comment. The regular meeting resumed at 7:03 p.m.

Council members present: President Hover, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English (via Zoom), Ms. Naji-Taylor and Mr. Schleigh Absent: Ms. James, Mr. Holt, Jr. Council member Ms. Lartey and Borough Solicitor Scott. Also in attendance: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Secretary Henry, Borough Engineer Matson, Police Chief Rutherford and Carl Ewald, Esq. for Mr. Scott.

Approval of agenda: Ms. English moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Approved as follows:

1. **April 6, 2021** Borough Council Business meeting – Moved by Ms. English, seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor. Vote: unanimous.
2. **April 21, 2021** Borough Council General meeting – Moved by Ms. English, seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor. Vote: unanimous.
3. **May 5, 2021** Borough Council Business meeting – Moved by Ms. English, seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor. Vote: unanimous.

4. **May 19, 2021** Borough Council General meeting – Moved by Ms. English, seconded by Ms. Byrne. Vote: unanimous.
5. **June 2, 2021** Borough Council Business meeting – Moved by Ms. English, seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor. Vote: unanimous.
6. **June 21, 2021** Borough Council General meeting – Moved by Ms. English, seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor. Vote: unanimous.

The July Business meeting was previously cancelled by unanimous vote.

Announcements Presentations: The Mayor spotlighted a new business owned by long time Lansdowne resident Ryan Burley, “**Franklin Fountains Island Sugar Shack**”, located next to Bonnie’s Wonder Gardens on Scottdale Road. Mr. Burley’s family previously owned and operated a similar shop in Old City as well as a few other sites. They have been featured on various television shows, the Discovery Channel and the New York Times. Current hours of operation: Wednesday through Sunday, 2-9 p.m. They will also be open as business allows during the fall and winter holiday season. Fare includes hard, hand scooped ice cream, vegan ice cream made from coconut cream, fresh fruit ices and cold brewed coffee drinks. Everything is made from scratch using local dairies and ethically sourced ingredients. Payments accepted are cash, credit cards and Venmo.

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Totaro read the Treasurer’s Report ended June 30, 2021 as follows:

General Fund beginning balance -	\$ 1,456,526; ending balance \$ 4,256,787
Sewer Fund beginning balance -	\$ 984,174; ending balance \$ 630,741
Liquid Fuels Fund beginning balance -	\$ 980,408; ending balance \$ 1,223,441
Non-Uniform Police Pension beginning balance -	\$ 3,988,380; ending balance \$ 4,423,689
Police Pension Fund beginning balance -	\$11,148,458; ending balance \$ 11,702,860

Solicitor’s Report – Mr. Ewald reported on two items as follows:

(1) Amendments to the Sunshine Act effective August 29, 2021. It is now required that all agendas be posted 24 hours in advance of a meeting and limits what can and cannot be included on agendas. There will be a process to follow if any agenda items need to be added after the 24 hour limit. The ruling will also apply to all borough Boards and Commissions. The exception is the Zoning Hearing Board that operates independently from the borough.

President Hover questioned if new action items should be listed on agenda or can they be included under Old and New Business. Mr. Ewald commented as long as all is clear to the audience, it does not matter what section is used.

(2) New state enacted legislation regulates 5G communications for borough implementation. Verizon representatives will be present at the August general meeting to discuss building the network in Lansdowne.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor reported as follows:

1. Swearing in tomorrow of Police Officer Jake Lyons. Another officer is to be sworn in next month.
2. The National Night Out event has a tentative date of October 9 and will be held in conjunction with Fire Safety Week. A new name for the combined event is being developed.
3. The Mayor thanked Mary Kay Bowden and all the volunteers for making the July 4th parade a success.
4. The recently held shredding and electronics event was a huge success. Amounts collected:
 - 7,400 lbs. paper
 - 2,100 lbs. air conditioners
 - 3,600 lbs. television sets
 - 1,900 lbs. PC towers and desk tops
 - 4,500 lbs. scanners and printers
5. The Mayor thanked Boy Scout Troop 63 member Tyler Gardiner for placing the Hometown Heroes banners at Borough Greene, the fire house and Presbyterian Church.
6. Complaints were received re: Lansdowne Avenue litter near Lansdowne Court. The Mayor indicated a can on the east side of Lansdowne Avenue would be of great help and the area should be monitored due to proximity to the library and bus stop.
7. The Mayor asked those who remain unvaccinated to reconsider getting the vaccine due to the spreading Covid variant.

President's Report – President Hover reported as follows:

1. President Hover thanked American Legion Post 65 for spearheading the Hometown heroes banners in Lansdowne. He also thanked the volunteers who made the July 4 parade a success.
2. President Hover thanked Mary Gay Scanlon and Senator Bob Casey for including the HLTC in proposed projects for funding.
3. Recently held meetings:
 - (a) Two in August for recommendation on the Comprehensive Plan ?
 - (b) Met with Tax Collector with the Mayor, Mr. Scott and Mr. Totaro in attendance. The previous billing errors have been satisfactorily rectified.
 - (c) Met with CVI representatives to discuss marketing videos for Lansdowne and the desired categories.
 - (d) Met with the HARB last night to support the Callahan Ward project. The final design has been approved and a Certificate of Occupancy will be given at the August General meeting of Borough Council.
4. A Liberia Day celebration will be held in Borough Greene on July 24, 1:00 p.m.
5. President Hover thanked resident Helen Marcarelli for her continued contributions of flowers throughout the borough.

Committee Reports:

Public Health and Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor deferred to Ms. English, as she was away at the time of the meeting. Ms. English noted the Committee met on July 14 and reviewed the specs for the new fire truck

with Fire Marshall Young. The Committee recommended approving the purchase. Other topics of discussion included:

1. Officer Parker is back on duty. Police Chief Rutherford was present to report that year to date calls for service totaled 4,605. There were 661 calls in June.
2. Residents on Lansdowne Court were present to discuss the flow of traffic and problematic exiting onto Lansdowne Avenue. The speeding and parking problems re: apartment building in Upper Darby were also addressed.
3. The Fire House is working on procuring grants.
4. A new name is being considered for the upcoming October 9 National Night Out event.
5. The Committee recommended voting on the fireworks resolution tonight.
3. Police body cams have been received but no training has been provided at the current time. Solicitor Scott is reviewing the police policy.

Finance and Administration – Ms. English reported in Ms. James' absence:

1. Discussed the new fire truck financing, workers compensation audit and Human Resources evaluations. These will apply to all borough employees and a new Council member handbook is being requested for the Lansdowne Boards and Commissions as well.
2. Discussed the Treasurer position. 35 applicants and 3 interviews held. There is a recommendation.
3. Discussed the Liquid Fuels audit.

Economic Development - President Hover reported as follows:

1. The Committee met on July 14 to discuss updates on the strategy and transition from the Arts Board to the Lansdowne Arts and Culture Council.
2. Discussed American Rescue Plan funding.
3. LEDC updates: There will be a new store opening in September at the old Thrift Store location on Lansdowne Avenue.
4. The HARB provided code and zoning updates.
5. The William Penn School District has codified its contract with Black Lives Matter.

Environment, Parks and Recreation – Ms. English reported as follows:

1. Committee met with neighbors near the Mckinley lot site to discuss concerns. There was very good feedback. Neighbor requests included (1) having a bird name for the lot due to the emphasis on bird information; (2) additional trash can; (3) clarification on the type of trees and how the entrances would close and lock.
2. The current Chair of the Park and Rec Board has stepped down.
2. Gateway Slope progress.
3. Goats to be used in Marlyn Park to eat invasive plants, hopefully sometime this fall.
4. Teachers are reaching out to the Park and Rec Board about a policy to hold outside classes at the 20th Century Club. Mr. Ewald was not familiar with who manages that facility but indicated that as long as clear standards are set, it is OK to execute that policy.
5. Clarification requested for the different park signage about what is or is not allowed.
6. Dog Park.

Environment Advisory Council (EAC): Met earlier this month with request for a resolution review at the August general meeting. No candidate has been chosen at present to fill the opening left by Carol Brandt's departure. The Council is working on Renewable 100 Energy project and plan to hold a series of webinars in the spring. There were 255 responses to their survey and a data base of interested residents will be kept.

Library Board Liaison: No report available as Ms. English's Finance Committee meeting ran late. The library should be opening as soon as the air conditioning is fixed.

Community Relations Committee - Ms. Byrne reported the Committee met on July 8 and debriefed the July 4 activities. The feedback was "great". Storing of UAA items and forwarding of UAA mail was also discussed. Other topics for discussion included:

1. Having an annual calendar to better prepare for town and nationwide events throughout the year.
2. Having a FAQ page on borough web site to make navigation easier.
3. The School Board decided on full attendance in the fall. Those under age 12 and all unvaccinated students must wear masks. Ms. English asked if Ms. Byrne was the School liaison, commenting that Green Avenue has been closed with no notice provided to residents and a process needs to be in place. Ms. Byrne will follow up with the School Board on this.

Lansdowne Arts Board: Planning to hold first show in October. The LAB would like to reinstate the micro grant program with Borough Council's approval. Mr. Totaro will look into pricing for Covid related cleaning services for 2020 House.

Infrastructure and Public Works – Mr. Schleigh reported that the Committee met on the final Monday in June. A number of issues were discussed as follows:

1. Gene Wayne, the Joint Sewer Authority representative for Lansdowne, made a presentation at the last meeting on how communities are economically impacted by what goes into the sewer and sanitary lines. The capacity of the line and treatment center in Chester City causes the environment regulations to limit developments based on how much flow can be reduced in the lines. Lansdowne's Inflow and Infiltration rate has been reduced but some communities have been more successful. This reduction allows for more economic development in the borough as new developments require approval by the Sewer Authorities. The current proposals do not take into account that some communities have done as much modernization as possible and are constrained by economics. Going forward, Lansdowne will have to decide whether to work with the Joint Authority on a new program consisting of fair allocations based on I&I reductions or consider another program.
2. The paving program and modifying the expense limit on the new loader were discussed. Flow issues on Nyack Avenue and sewer and road repair issues were discussed as well. Mayor asked for updates on Gateway Slope and the flooding issues on Windermere Avenue after construction was completed. Borough Engineer Matson commented the contractor is aware of the flooding issue and wanted to make a one-time repair. In the event his timeliness on this is not on par with the borough's expectations, the borough has the right to do the work itself and can back charge the contract. Gateway Slope is now at the midpoint of the contract. Based on current performance, a meeting was held with the contractor to discuss the feasibility of completing

project before the October 2021 deadline. If deadline is not reached, there is a \$400 per day penalty for every day the project is delayed. The payment request is being held until more field activity can be seen.

Technology – In Mr. Holt’s absence, President Hover commented the Committee did not meet in July.

Communications:

1. **HLTC Letter** – This is their response to Borough Council’s letter of support to seek inclusion on Senator Bob Casey’s list of preferred earmarks. \$1 million has been on Sen. Casey’s list and another \$1.5 million has been included on Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon’s list.
2. **Q2 East Delco Meeting** – Invitation for event on July 22, 6 p.m. with officials and police chiefs in senatorial district to discuss the current issues in Delaware County, provide updates to Harrisburg and advocating for shared constituents. The Mayo and Chief Rutherford will be attending.

Old Business:

1. **2021 Paving Program** – Mr. Matson reported there was a base bid opening in early July with a series of add alternates. Mecco Construction was low bidder and winner in the amount of \$198,177.38 for base bid. Two options were recommended: (1) street restoration on Drexel Avenue for \$2,504.10; and (2) ADA ramp improvement as an option for \$2,813.86 for that. In addition, pricing for bicycle plan was put out and the results were favorable. Mr. Matson would like to repost this portion of the project by the August general meeting.
2. **Treasurer** – Mr. Totaro recommended hiring Donna Lang. The required action item can be voted on tonight. However, Mr. Ewald recommended providing more detail under Old Business for future appointments.
3. **Fire Truck – State/Federal Aid** – Mr. Totaro commented this is a letter to be sent to Senator Williams and Representative Scanlon seeking funding for the fire truck. There will be a virtual meeting this coming Monday at 11:30 a.m.
4. **215 Maple Avenue** – Mr. Totaro commented this is currently a vacant fire property. There is a demolition grant program available to the borough for about \$80,000 and the application will be submitted.

New Business:

1. **Liberia Day Resolution** – This acknowledges and honors all members of Liberian descent living in Lansdowne and their positive impact in the community. Ms. Naji-Taylor is the first elected Delaware County official of Liberian descent.
2. **Borough Hall Boiler** – President Hover commented this was previously commented on by Mr. Totaro.

- 3. Fireworks Resolution** – Ms. English reported that the Public Safety Committee recommended signing this resolution. The State mistakenly made fireworks so abundantly available and is recalling some of the items previously passed. The original intent was to raise tax revenues through these sales but concluded too many careless residents were setting them off. The Mayor commented that the East Lansdowne and Upper Darby mayors are agreeable to looking at the resolution for possible support.

Public Comment: Ms. Byrne moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Visitors:

1. Wallis Randall – 105 Lansdown Court. Mr. Randall researched the new Scottdale Road traffic pattern and noted it would be further distance to access his garage on Scottdale Road from Baltimore Avenue. He would like a change to the current proposal of two way to The Knoll to include his and a neighbor's garage. Mr. Totaro indicated some residents had similar problems near the tennis courts parking lot and the one way was changed several months ago. The revised plan is one way from East to West for cars and Mr. Randall can access his garage due to this change.
2. Sean Gallagher – 105 Lansdown Court. Mr. Gallagher indicated that other safety concerns were summarized in the chat by Jen Carston regarding the changed traffic pattern.
3. Mary Radich – 107 Lansdown Court. Mrs. Radich commented she is a 17 year resident of Lansdowne and wanted confirmation that her garage could be accessed on Scottdale Road. Mr. Totaro said "yes". Mrs. Radich expressed concern for the safety of walkers and bikers on Scottdale due to the constant speeding issues. Mr. Totaro indicated that the new bike plan is being produced by a professional traffic engineer. All striping and signage are considered with safety in mind. The perception of the narrowing road should slow down speeders and will increase the safety zone for bicyclists. Mr. Matson added that the plan went through a rigorous development process with a highly qualified and very competitive firm and safety is a paramount concern. In that regard the striping and additional signage will provide more safety as restricted lanes will cause drivers to slow down. Installing speed bumps was not part of the plan.
4. Jennifer Carston – 9 Lansdowne Court. Her comments were already put into the chat but she asked if a separate meeting could be held to address questions and concerns separate from the chat. Additionally, were traffic feasibility reports being mentioned completed or still being undertaken?. She would like a public progress link provided with e-documents. President Hover mentioned significant meetings and a bike forum were held last year but felt another meeting could be held to go over the plan contents, even though it is now finalized. Ms. Carston asked for clarity on what will happen to traffic on South Lansdowne Avenue. Mr. Totaro indicated that bike lanes will be added on South Lansdowne from Madison south to Fairview Avenue. They will not continue through the borough but will pick up again at Stewart Avenue going north to Marshall Road in a subsequent phase. Ms. Carston expressed concern for the Lansdowne Court motorists trying to go north on Lansdowne.
5. Eileen Brumbaugh - 97 Lansdowne Court. Concerned about speeding and what happened to the Scottdale Road speed bumps? Chief Rutherford noted there are still bumps near the tennis courts. Ms.

Brumbaugh commented she had seen northbound motorists crossing the yellow double line at the Septa bridge to gain faster access to the left hand turn lane at Baltimore and Lansdowne.

6. Chris Edwards – 102 Lansdowne Court. Mr. Edwards lent his support for his neighbors. He asked for clarification on the two way traffic. Mr. Totaro indicated it is two way to the Knoll downhill going West and garages can be accessed from Lansdowne Avenue only.

Ms. English moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. English moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-02 regarding Group Living Arrangement. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-16 terminating the Lansdowne Landing Board. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Mr. Hover moved to enter agreement with WPSD regarding a mural on Green Avenue. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. **Discussion:** Ms. English noted the submitted agenda was blank with no option for Borough Council review and had no range of dates. Mr. Totaro indicated these are open items that were submitted with no further information. Mr. Scott had reviewed an agreement with the changes and is working with the School District solicitor on this, but felt comfortable with the contract as delivered. Ms. English added she would like to preview any planned mural. After further discussion, President Hover motioned to table this item. Ms. English seconded. The motion carried 3 to 2. Aye votes: Mr. Schleigh, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English. Nay votes: Ms. Naji-Taylor, President Hover.
5. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to ratify acceptance of the Purdue Pharma Reorganization Plan. Mr. Schleigh seconded. **Discussion:** Ms. English asked for the details. Mr. Ewald commented this organization is related to the current opioid cases being litigated but Lansdowne is not involved except from the standpoint of the County wherein a subpoena was served. The borough filed a motion to strike the subpoena. Mr. Ewald noted the company is currently in bankruptcy and it would be in the best interest of the borough to go ahead with the plan. Vote: unanimous.
6. Mr. Schleigh moved to award 2021 Paving Program Base bid to Meco Construction. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. **Discussion:** Ms. English commented the contract had been updated to include add alternates #9 and #10. Mr. Schleigh moved to amend the motion to include these items. Ms. Naji-Taylor. Vote: unanimous.
7. Mr. Schleigh moved to modify the expense limit for a new loader in the amount of \$65,500. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

8. Mr. Hover moved to permit Boy Scouts to set signs in Borough Greene and the Fire House. Mr. Schleigh seconded. Vote: unanimous.
9. Ms. English moved to accept letter of resignation from Carol Brandt from the EAC. Mr. Schleigh seconded. Vote: unanimous.
10. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-17 recognizing Liberian Independence Day. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
11. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to hire Mr. Jack Lyons as full-time Patrolman Class E. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
12. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to send funding request letter for a fire truck to Senator Williams and Representative. Scanlon. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
13. Mr. Hover moved to apply to Penn DOT for permission to install a banner on Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. **Discussion:** The borough, not the LEDC, is the applicant to the state for permission. Vote: unanimous.
14. Ms. English moved to adopt Resolution 2021-18 regarding fireworks. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
15. Mr. Hover moved to apply to OHCD for a demolition grant for 215 Maple Avenue. Mr. Schleigh seconded. Vote: unanimous.
16. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-19 regarding an application for a PLCB special event permit (Arts festival event). Mr. Schleigh seconded. Vote: unanimous.
17. Ms. Byrne moved to adopt Resolution 2021-20 regarding the acceptance of property from the UAA. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. **Discussion:** Ms. English asked what items are being accepted. Ms. Byrne indicated the cotton candy and popcorn machines. The Mayor recommended finding borough property to store these items. Vote: unanimous.
18. Mr. Hover moved to provide a \$50 honorarium to vocalist Francesca Merritt. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
19. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to order the manufacture of a ladder truck. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
20. Ms. English moved to appoint Ms. Donna Long as Borough Treasurer. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session – Ms. English moved to adjourn to executive session at 9:25 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Public Session – No motions made.

Adjourn – Mr. Schleigh moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary